

REMARKS

The claims have been amended more clearly to distinguish over the cited art by limiting the claimed cationic, water-soluble resin through the use of the "consisting of" transitional to the recited repeating units of formula (I), and by limiting the R1 and R2 groups to C1-5 alkyl groups. By virtue of these amendments, the claimed invention further distinguishes from the ink compositions described in the Takizawa reference, wherein the polymer added in the ink compositions is a copolymer (see Takizawa at, e.g., claim 1). By teaching the use of a copolymer, Takizawa teaches away from a polymer **consisting of** the claimed repeating units of formula (I). Moreover, Takizawa only exemplifies copolymers containing allylamine (R1=R2=H in formula (I)) or N-methylamine (R1=methyl and R2=H in formula (I)). The reference does not exemplify the claimed polymer consisting of the claimed di-alkyl allylamine units.

Similarly, the claims as amended further distinguish over the ink compositions described by the Tomita reference, which reference teaches that the ink compositions described therein should contain primary amino groups (see Tomita at column 2, lines 51-59). In the amended claims, R1 and R2 do not represent a hydrogen atom. Thus, the claims exclude the polymers having primary amino groups that Tomita teaches to be essential to the invention described therein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art cannot set

forth even a *prima facie* case of alleged obviousness for the claimed invention. Even if the cited art could set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness, Applicants have evidence of unexpectedly advantageous results that would be sufficient to overcome such *prima facie* case. In particular, Applicants transmit herewith a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 that demonstrates the unexpectedly advantageous results that can be achieved with the claimed ink compositions. (An unsigned declaration is transmitted herewith with a signed declaration to follow.)

In the declaration, Tests I, III, IV, and VI are covered by the amended claim 23, while Tests II and VI are not. This is because the polymers of formula (I) in the ink composition of Color Ink Sets 1, 3, 4 and 6 have methyl groups as R1 and R2. On the other hand, the ink compositions of Color Ink Sets 2 and 5 contain polymers of formula (I) having methyl as R1 and hydrogen as R2. As shown by the comparison between Tests I, III, IV, and VI and Tests II and VI, the claimed ink composition can realize an image having an improved lightfastness. All the ink sets composed of the claimed ink composition were evaluated as Grade "A." On the other hand, Grade C was assigned to all the ink sets composed of the ink compositions containing the polymer of formula (I) wherein R1 and R2 do not represent alkyl at the same time.

As discussed above, the Takizawa reference only discloses in its Examples copolymers containing allylamine (R1=R2=H in the recited formula (I)) or N-methylamine (R1=H in formula (I)). Thus, the data show the improved properties of the claimed ink compositions as compared with those of the Takizawa reference. In

addition, the reference is silent as to possible improvement of lightfastness of printing. Thus, the advantageous results of the claimed ink, as shown in the declaration, could not have been expected from Takizawa.

Tests VII to IX are disclosed in the originally filed specification. Test X is newly demonstrated in the Declaration. The ink compositions of Color Ink Set 9 contain polyethyleneimine (see the specification on page 25, lines 1 to 7). Grade "D" is assigned to this ink set as shown in the Declaration. The Tomita reference exemplifies polyethyleneimine as a polyamine which is an essential ingredient of the ink composition, in column 3 of the reference. Thus, the data show the improved properties of the claimed ink compositions as compared with those of the Tomita reference. In addition, the reference is silent as to any improvement of lightfastness of printing.

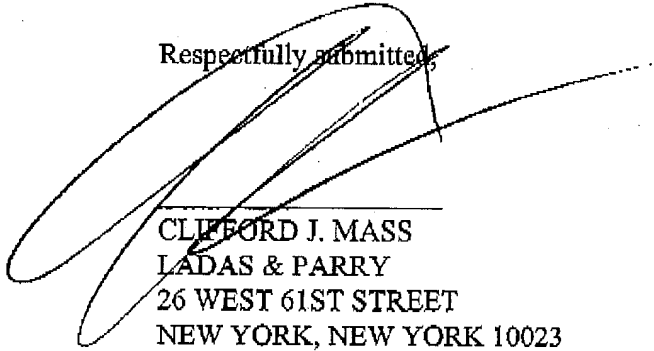
Furthermore, Test X i.e., the ink compositions of Black Ink 4 and Color Ink Set 10, contain the repeat unit of formula (I) and a polyamine having a primary amino group in combination. Grade "D" is also assigned to this ink set. The claims as amended exclude the presence of a cationic, water-soluble polymer which does not fall within the new definition of formula (I). The new main claim thus excludes the addition of a polyamine having primary amino groups. The data show the improved properties of the claimed ink composition with those of the Tomita reference. In addition, the reference is silent as to the improvement of lightfastness of printing. Thus, the advantageous results of the claimed ink composition, as shown in the

declaration, could not have been expected from Tomita.

In view of the above, it is clear that the evidence in the declaration shows that the claimed ink compositions satisfy an objective of providing an ink composition which can realize an image possessing good lightfastness (see specification at page 3, line 5). This advantageous result could not have been expected from the cited art whereby the evidence would be sufficient to overcome any alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness set forth by such art.

Accordingly, the application is respectfully believed to be allowable from.
An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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